

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7564

BILL NUMBER: SB 585

DATE PREPARED: Feb 28, 2001

BILL AMENDED: Feb 27, 2001

SUBJECT: Athletic Trainer Licensure.

FISCAL ANALYST: Chris Baker

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FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) The bill requires the number of examiners and the size of the facility at which an athletic trainer qualification examination is administered to be sufficient to accommodate every applicant who applies for the examination by the deadline and pays the applicable examination fees. It permits the Indiana Athletic Trainers Board to issue temporary licenses to practice as an athletic trainer under certain circumstances.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The Health Professions Bureau, is required by statute to contract with the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) Board of Certification to prepare, conduct, and score NATA's current professional examination as the qualifying examination for athletic trainers. The Bureau reports that the NATA Board of Certification administers the examination five times per year, four of which are in Indiana (two times in Indianapolis, twice in Anderson.) According to the Bureau, the Athletic Trainers Board does not participate in the examination process (development, administration, the scoring of the examination, or selection of test sites.) Applicants for examination apply directly to the NATA Board of Certification to take the examination, which is administered to applicants by Castle Worldwide, Inc. Applicants that have successfully passed the examination and have received NATA certification then apply for Indiana licensure. As a result, the circumstances of the administration of the examination by a private organization such as the NATA are currently beyond the control of the Board.

The bill also provides for the issuing of temporary licenses to athletic trainer applicants. The bill would also allow athletic trainers seeking certification before June 30, 2002, to receive a license if they meet the following requirements:

- 1) actively engaged as an athletic trainer for at least twelve months between July 1, 1996, and June 30, 2001;

- 2) submit an application to the Athletic Trainer Certification Board on forms prescribed by the Board;
- 3) pay the application and license fees defined by the Board and either satisfactorily complete the educational qualifications or be certified by the NATA.

As amended, the bill allows the Board to issue a temporary permit to practice as an athletic trainer if a person pays a fee and:

- 1) is validly licensed or certified to practice in another state and the person has applied to the Board for a license;
 - 2) is practicing in a state that does not license or certify athletic trainers, but the person is certified by a national athletic training association approved by the Board and the person has applied to the Board for a license;
- or
- 3) the person has been approved by the Board to take the next examination and has graduated from a school or program approved by the Board.

In order to implement the provisions of temporary licensing and to allow certain applicants as specified by the bill to be licensed before all qualifications are met, the Bureau reports the following expenditures would be required:

Expenditure	Amount
Per Diem	\$750
Travel	\$1,914
Postage	\$1,052
Printing/Copying	\$1,038
Telephone	\$640
Supplies	\$1,000
Total	\$6,394

Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) Issuing temporary licenses and permits along with licensing certain applicants as specified by the bill before all qualifications are met, may lead to an increase in revenue.

Currently, the certification fee for athletic trainers is \$25 for application and issuance. In FY 2000, the Board collected \$3,083 in fees. The Health Professions Bureau reports that, as of the most recent renewal period, there are 485 active licenses. Of the active licenses, 124 were issued in 2000 and 86 were issued in 1999.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Health Professions Bureau; Athletic Trainer Certification Board.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Barb McNutt, Staff Counsel, Health Professions Bureau, (317) 233-4406; Office of the Auditor of State.